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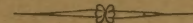
OF

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BRIGHAM HALL,

A

Hospital for the Insane.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.
JANUARY, 1860.



CANANDAIGUA, N. Y.:
ONTARIO REPUBLICAN TIMES OFFICE :—N. J. MILLKEN, PRINTER.
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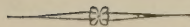
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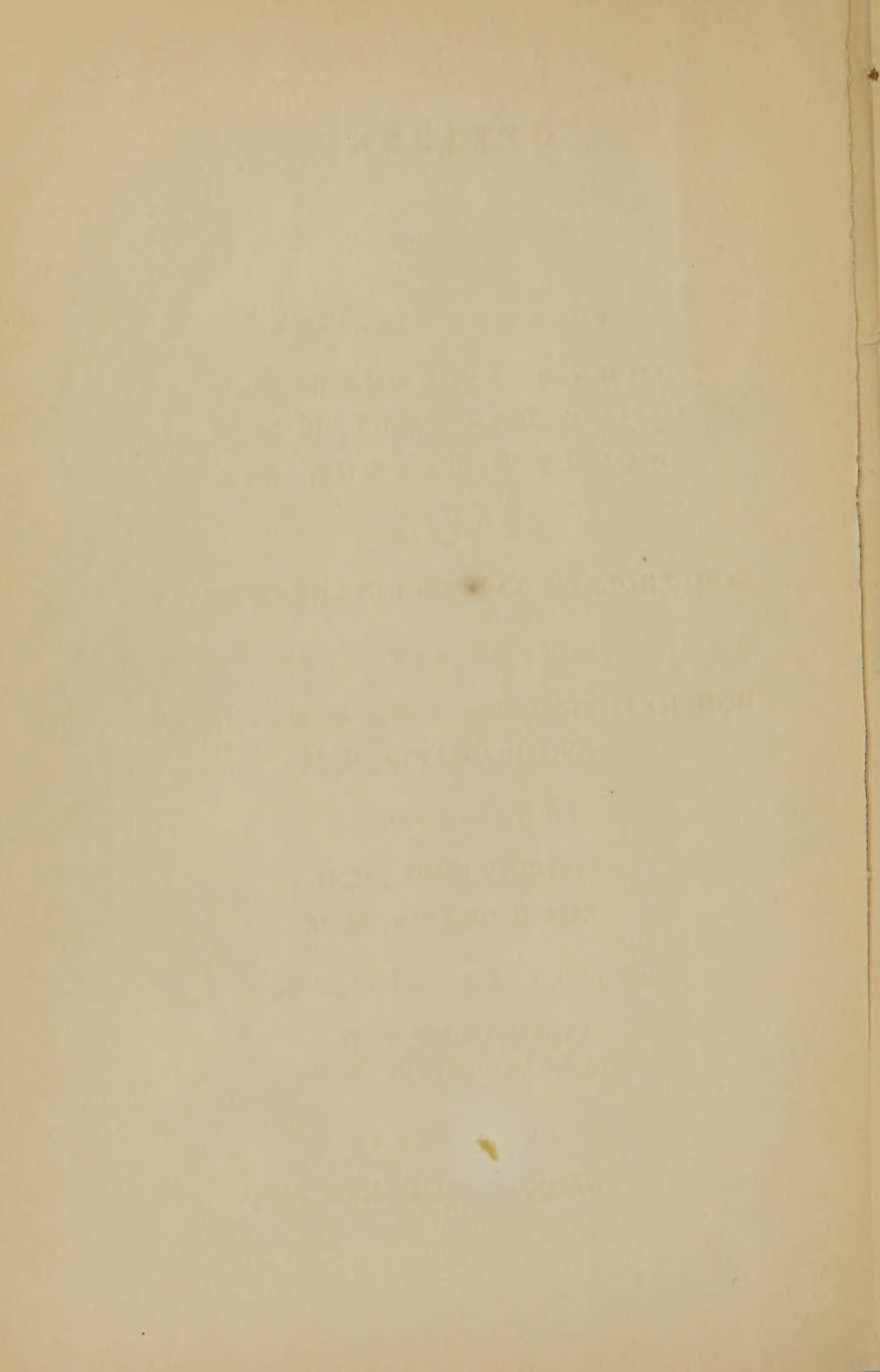
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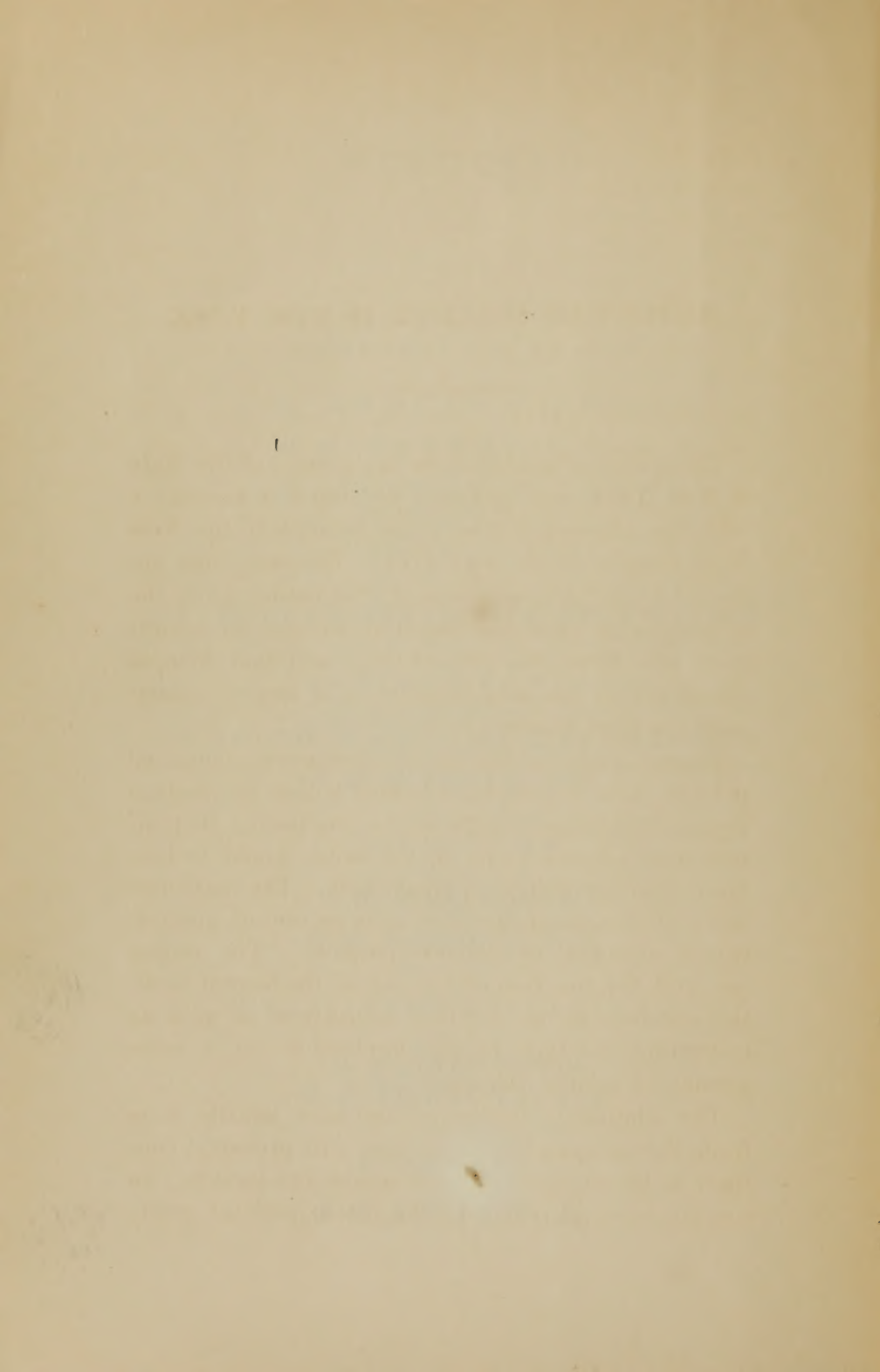
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HISTORY OF INSANITY IN NEW YORK.

The history of provision for the insane, of the State of New York, may properly be stated to commence with the attempt to treat a few lunatics in the New York Hospital in the year 1797. The care, thus bestowed upon the insane, was of that nature which the exigencies of each case required, and not in accordance with those enlightened views and that wisdom which led to the establishment of a special department for their treatment.

Bloomingtondale Asylum for the insane was completed in 1821. This institution is located within the limits of the commercial metropolis of this continent. Its position is such that a radius of ten miles would include more than one million of inhabitants. The characteristics of this people are such as grow out of uninterrupted attention to business pursuits. The proper use, and the too frequent abuse, of the mental faculties incident to the exciting occupations of such an emporium conduce to the production of a large amount of mental disease.

The admissions to this hospital have, usually, been from the independent class, and, will probably continue to be supplied from this source and locality. In consideration of receiving the insane poor of neigh-

boring counties the hospital received pecuniary aid from the State, for a period of its history,—a provision which was afterwards repealed. The operations of this institution, though limited geographically, have been, otherwise, wide-spread. Benefits of a character not to be estimated have been conferred through its instrumentality upon more than six thousand insane persons.

The act of the Legislature establishing a State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, passed on the 30th of March, 1836, not however without a persevering effort of more than six years, and not until the condition and suffering of the insane in the State were repeatedly represented, in an official manner, to be deplorable in the extreme. This Asylum, completed seven years after the passage of the act creating it, received patients in January, 1843.

It was supposed, in the inception of this Asylum, that, on the scale with which it was projected it would be capable of receiving all the cases of lunacy likely to seek admission, but, in the language of a committee, "If an establishment of this extent should prove inadequate, its accommodations may hereafter be enlarged, or, other hospitals erected of sufficient dimensions and number to accommodate all the insane poor in the State." The location of this hospital is within the middle third of the State, the inhabitants of which are devoted to agricultural pursuits. Though not receiving appropriations to defray its current expenses from the State, its basis is, however, a charitable one; and its patients have been received mostly from the indigent classes, which, by a liberal interpretation of the law, have a prior claim to admission. The number of patients admitted, annually, is about

three hundred and fifty ; and, within the short period of its existence, six thousand cases of insanity have received its medical and custodial care.

THIS PROVISION INSUFFICIENT.

Among the earliest to recognise the insufficient hospital accommodations for this class of the community was one whose name we honor in this connection—Miss D. L. DIX. The memorial, presented by this untiring philanthropist, representing the condition and wants of the insane to the Legislature, the result of personal observation and inspection, initiated renewed efforts in their behalf. The number of lunatics and idiots seen by her was not less than fifteen hundred ; and she estimates the number in the state, unprovided for, in County Alms-Houses and in private families at not less than three thousand. “A great number are suffering more terribly than language can describe, for want of appropriate care, and accommodations adapted to their peculiar necessities, and their entire dependence on others for all that can ameliorate the miseries of their earthly life.”

In the third annual report of the State Lunatic Asylum, Dr. BRIGHAM stated that “the Asylum has been constantly full the year past, and much of the time crowded.” “Notwithstanding all our efforts, in this respect, we have been reluctantly compelled to refuse admission to a considerable number.”

In the ninth report of the same institution it is stated by Dr. BENEDICT :—“We have been obliged to refuse a greater number of applications than in previous years.” “We refused forty-seven applications.

At one time we were obliged to postpone applications from County authorities until we could make vacancies by removing some of our incurable private patients." A statement of similar import is made in the tenth annual report :—"Sixty were necessarily refused," and "thirty-seven patients were removed to other institutions to make room for those having preference by law." "If we can calculate the coming by the past year (1852) there will have been refused admission into this institution, a number of patients large enough to fill another hospital before it can be built should its erection be commenced immediately."

In the eleventh report Dr. BENEDICT states :—"Notwithstanding the large number received, sixty applications were refused." "The numerous applications for the admission of urgent cases compelled us to require the removal of many public and private patients," some of which, "were enabled to gain admission to institutions in other States." "Forty-seven were thus discharged making a total of one hundred and seven persons for whom we have been unable to afford accommodations."

In the twelfth annual report, Dr. GRAY, the present Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, alludes to the inability of the Asylum to meet all the demands upon it. One hundred and eight private patients were refused admission, and fifty-one were removed from the Asylum to receive recent cases. In the following year one hundred and sixty-seven applicants are reported to have been refused admission. Dr. GRAY, remarks: "This institution has for several years past been wholly inadequate to the wants of the State, and while the population has been increasing, no corresponding provision has been made for the insane."

This subject has not occupied the thought of those, only, who brought into such intimate official relation with the insane, were prepared to speak intelligently. Governor SEYMOUR and Governor CLARK, severally, presented it to the Legislature with a recommendation to its favorable consideration.

The Superintendents of the Poor, the legal custodians of the insane poor, have memorialized, and Boards of County Supervisors have passed resolutions recommending the Legislature to provide additional hospital accommodations.

The Legislature itself, has repeatedly, had this matter under consideration. A question involving the happiness of so large a body of the inhabitants of the State, could not avoid its notice, pressed upon it from so many official quarters. Official documents have emanated from the Legislature; and, more recently, a select committee, composed of Senators, engaged for five months with some intermissions, in investigations into the condition of the insane, presented a report; all recommending proper measures of relief. Bills, framed from time to time to meet the desired end, have received the favorable action of one, and sometimes, of both branches of the Legislature, yet have failed finally, to become laws; and no further provision for the treatment of lunatics has been made.

EXTENT OF THE DEMAND.

The two institutions, brief notices of which are presented, comprise the Public Asylums for the insane of this State, and mark eventful periods in its lunacy history. Their combined capacity amounts to the accommodation of seven hundred patients. However ample

this provision is, apparently, it has never met the demands upon it. The number of insane in the State, in 1845, was two thousand one hundred and sixty-eight; the number provided for in Asylums, three hundred and eighty-five. In 1850, the number was two thousand five hundred and twenty-one; the number provided for in Asylums, was five hundred and forty-three; while in 1855, the number of insane was reported to be two thousand seven hundred and forty-two, of which number five hundred and ninety-five were in Asylums. These data, correct as any that are accessible, we have no hesitation in stating, furnish but an approximation of the actual amount of insanity in the State of New York. Yet, it will appear that but one insane person in five was in a situation to receive that medical and moral treatment the disease requires. The remainder have been provided for in Alms-Houses; in other equally inappropriate receptacles, or removed by friends to other States for medical treatment.

REASONS ADDUCED FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL.

That a State should possess within its borders ample means for restoration of all cases of insanity likely to occur, is a proposition, so clear, as to require no more than an enunciation to secure the approval of all its citizens. It is, likewise, as clearly the duty of government to seek in every legitimate manner the alleviation and well-being of its citizens laboring under so great an affliction. The reciprocal obligations which grow out of the association of men together in communities, as well as motives of humanity and economy, render this duty too imperative to be neglected.

These obligations, though acknowledged, have never been discharged. The public hospital accommodation has always been insufficient. This deficiency has been presented publicly and officially, by those officers having intimate relations with the insane. Many cases of insanity have occurred in families in independent pecuniary circumstances, which have been under the necessity of seeking the public hospital provision of other States. Cases of insanity, also, have occurred in the families of persons of independent pecuniary condition where the difficulties attending admission to an Asylum have resulted in reducing the family to a condition of dependence. The delays that have occurred from this cause at a critical period of the disease, have in many cases, resulted in destroying all hope of restoration.

The causes, operative in the production of insanity continue to have their influence ; and may be expected to produce at least uniform results. If, however, any estimate is to be formed of the future, it is that the amount of mental disease will be increased instead of diminished. Under all these circumstances further delay in making additional provision for the insane might become a matter of just reproach to the citizens of this State. No want of experience in the construction of edifices for this class of patients ; no ignorance of the nature of their wants or of their number, has been alleged ; no urgent objection, so far as we are aware, has ever been urged to the creation of new hospitals. On the other hand, they have been represented as demanded by several Chief Magistrates of this State ; by committees of both branches of the Legislature ; by three Superintendents of the State Lunatic Asylum : by the Superintendents of the Poor ;

by Boards of County Supervisors ; by the State Medical Society, and by private citizens.

HISTORY, SITE AND DESCRIPTION OF BRIGHAM HALL.

In the Spring of 1855, three individuals* united in an association for the purpose of establishing a hospital for the insane, calculated to meet a demand, believed to exist. These gentlemen, governed by the principles announced by the *Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane*, relative to the construction of hospitals for the insane, deeming it essential to the success of such an institution that its location should be selected with a view to its requirements, visited a number of sites that were offered for consideration. It was conceded that the existence of an Asylum in the Eastern and in the middle third of the State, precluded a location in either of these localities; and pre-determined that any additional hospital should be located in its Western third. Experience has, also, amply demonstrated, that a central geographical location for a hospital can not supply the wants of a large and populous community. By a singularly happy coincidence so auspicious to the success of this enterprise, a site admirably adapted to the purposes of a hospital, presented itself in the Village of Canandaigua. This Village is 104 miles from Buffalo, and 222 miles from Albany. It is accessible from the East and West by the New York Central Railroad ; from New York, Philadelphia, and the counties traversed by the New York and Erie Railroad and by the Canandaigua and Elmira Railroad.

*Mr. R. D. COOK, Mr. W. G. WAYNE, and Dr. GEORGE COOK.

It is in a center, a radius from which fifty miles in extent, will include no less than 500,000 persons.

The site selected contained a building suitable to answer the wants of a central edifice of a hospital. It was prepared for patients and received the first one on October 3d, 1855. The Medical Superintendence was committed to Dr. GEO. COOK, by whom the hospital in honor, and in grateful recollection of his friend and patron, Dr. AMARIAH BRIGHAM, formerly Superintendent of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, was named "*Brigham Hall*." In the summer of 1856, the north wing was completed and received patients. In July, 1858, the hospital had been in operation two years and one-half, during much of which time its accommodations had been occupied. The time for enlarging the sphere of its operations was believed to have arrived, and such a step was deemed not only prudent, but advisable. Measures were accordingly taken to secure an act of incorporation and to place "*Brigham Hall*" on a secure and permanent basis. The act incorporating "*Brigham Hall---A Hospital for the Insane*," passed and became a law, on the 10th of April, 1859 ; under which an organization was effected on the 18th of August, 1859. The managers deeming a further enlargement necessary and called for, the south wing was commenced during the same month.

From the opening of the Institution, to the 18th of February, 1860, there have been received one hundred and thirty-nine patients, of whom forty-two have been discharged recovered ; thirty improved ; seventeen unimproved, and ten have died. Forty remain under treatment, several of whom are nearly recovered.

The Village of Canandaigua has long been celebrat-

ed for its healthy atmosphere and beautiful scenery. Situated near one of the fine sheets of water which adorn western New York, with broad streets abounding in shade trees, pleasant residences, well kept lawns and gardens, it possesses all the attractions that could be desired. The drives in the village and its vicinity are always pleasant, and in the summer months are very beautiful.

The location of the institution is upon elevated ground about three-fourths of a mile south-west of the rail-way station, and commands a view of the village, lake and surrounding country. A grove of twenty acres immediately surrounding the house affords ample room for exercise, and is a never failing source of pleasure and occupation to many patients. Fifty acres are under cultivation, about fifteen acres being appropriated to garden and fruits.

The building is in the rural gothic style of architecture and is composed of a central stone structure and two brick wings. The length of front is two hundred and seventy-six feet, with a depth varying from thirty-six to sixty feet. The center building contains the officers' residence and reception rooms; extending back from it are the kitchens, laundry and domestic offices. The engine and gas house are placed in rear of the laundry.

The wings are arranged exclusively for patients and their attendants. They have wide corridors with parlors, dining-rooms, bed-rooms, bath rooms and closets for eighty patients.* They are well furnished with all articles necessary for comfort and convenience. As far as possible all peculiarities of structure and fur-

*The new wing will be finished and furnished for the reception of patients early in June, 1860.

nishing have been avoided, the object being to give the house the quiet air of a home. A chapel, reading room and recreation room are soon to be added.

ORGANIZATION.

The objects desired to be attained by the act of incorporation, are the permanency of the hospital ; the legalization of its operations ; and the protection of the interests of all concerned whether in the relation of patient or corporator. The Managers are fully impressed with the importance of guarding all these interests in the most careful manner. They are sensible of the fact that any organization, surrounded by all the precautions it is possible to devise, is liable to be vitiated and prostituted, and fail to accomplish the end in view, unless controlled by undoubted integrity of purpose. They believe success is oftener to be attributed to the latter circumstance than to any completeness of organization. They feel deeply the nature, and the delicacy of the responsibility they have assumed, and they pledge themselves to discharge, conscientiously, their entire duty in this respect.

The general oversight and management of the affairs of the hospital will be intrusted to a board of three managers.

The medical direction of the hospital will be in strict conformity to those principles which experience in established Asylums for the insane, and Hospitals, has shown to be most conducive to the best results. The administration of the current affairs of the hospital will be strictly upon a medical basis.

The medical superintendence is intrusted to Dr.

GEORGE COOK, who has been connected with "*Brigham Hall*" from its beginning, and Dr. JOHN B. CHAPIN. They bring to the discharge of their duties an experience derived from a connection with the State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica.

Brigham Hall is designed for the accommodation of patients of the independent class, a class for which no adequate provision has existed in the State. Though no foundation exists at present for the gratuitous care and treatment of cases of insanity, the doors of the hospital will always be open to a moderate number of patients in indigent circumstances at a rate equal to the cost of support.

Applications for admission of patients or letters of inquiry should be addressed to Dr. GEORGE COOK, *Brigham Hall*, Canandaigua, N. Y.

In conclusion, the Managers indulge the hope that the hospital, as thus projected and organized, will receive the substantial and moral support of this, and neighboring communities. They believe it is only necessary to merit this to receive all they desire in this respect. The projectors of *Brigham Hall* have, after much reflection, and sparing no expense, laid the foundation of a hospital for the insane which they are determined shall be carried forward on as liberal a professional basis as can be consistent with the interests involved. Its career, so far, has met their sanguine anticipations, and has been auspicious of future success. The Managers trust this result will be realized and that the institution may continue to prove a means of great usefulness and an honor to the State.

